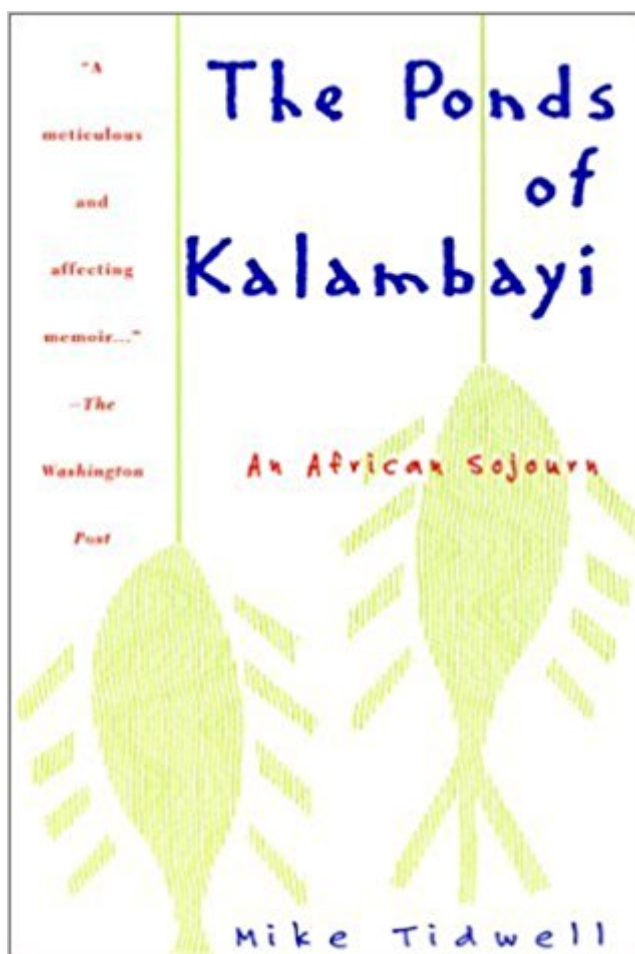


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The Ponds Of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn



Synopsis

As a freshly trained 23-year-old fish culture extension agent, Tidwell was ill prepared for the remote tribal kingdom in central Zaire called Kalambayi. But his reward, ultimately, was his acceptance by the generous Kalambayans and his ability to share their daily lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1985, Tidwell joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to teach villagers to build ponds and raise fish in a remote tribal kingdom, Kalambayi, in central Zaire. How he gradually altered his Western notions of privacy and propriety and learned to live in the local culture is the lighter side of a riveting story. During his two-year stint, Tidwell attended nearly 200 funerals, three-quarters of them for children. His "people" were desperately poor, malnourished and without medical care. They were generous; at the first fish harvest, the owner gave half his cash crop to friends and relatives. Under Tidwell's tutelage, farmers built more than 100 ponds; they sent two metric tons of fresh fish to village markets in one year, yet the proceeds were not enough to deliver them from poverty. Climate, parasitic diseases, physical exhaustion and depression took their tolls on Tidwell; he turned to alcohol. This is a stirring account of his experiences. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-- Poor, rural Zaire is the setting for this interesting autobiography of a man who spent two years there as a Peace Corps volunteer. Readers are sure to have culture shock as Tidwell shares his experiences in training, friendships, disease, civil war, superstition, pain, ignorance, and heartaches.

His style is easy to read and attention-holding, and the book develops logically. Tidwell comes to life as he learns from and discusses his mistakes and his successes. However, with just a few exceptions, the Africans tend to meld together into one personality. Still, this is an excellent choice for geography students who want to learn of a completely different culture and for YAs considering service in the Peace Corps.- Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The best travel books are written by Peace Corps volunteers, who aren't passing through, but live like the villagers do and get to know them well over their two years of duty.

Received on time. Just started reading and like it so far!

Cute but i skimmed some sections.

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